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said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement; and

 said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body.

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[Replace current claim 2 with the following:]

2. (Amended) A method of at least partially encasing a stanchion, comprising the steps of:

 providing a sleeve having an elongated generally cylindrical body with two opposing ends and an interior cavity extending along said elongated body and through one end of said elongated body, the other of said ends having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body without any discontinuities;

 forming said interior chamber with a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said interior chamber adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;

 inserting the stanchion into said interior cavity; and

 urging said sleeve onto the stanchion, to a desired position on the stanchion, to at least partially encase the stanchion.

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Please add new claims 3-6 as follows:

3. A cover for a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing terminal end, the cover comprising:

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a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said sleeve having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement;

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body; and

said sleeve and said dome top each being molded from a plastic material and having a wall thickness, said wall thickness of said sleeve and said wall thickness of said dome top being substantially the same.

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4. A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing terminal end, the stanchion having a height;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said sleeve having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending protrusion, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement, said sleeve having a length;

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top; and

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said length of said sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than said height of said stanchion such that said stanchion substantially fill said interior cavity.

5. A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing terminal end;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said sleeve having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement; and

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body;

wherein nothing else is required to retain said cover on said stanchion.

6. A stanchion and cover assembly comprising:

a substantially rigid elongated generally cylindrical stanchion having a lower end associated with the ground and an opposing terminal end, the stanchion having a height;

a sleeve having an elongated, generally cylindrical body extending generally between two opposing ends, said sleeve having a generally cylindrical interior cavity extending along said sleeve and through one of said two opposing ends, said interior cavity having a substantially consistent circular cross-sectional shape extending between said two opposing ends without any inwardly extending

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protrusion, said cavity adapted to receive the stanchion in slip fit engagement, said sleeve having a length;

said other opposing end of said sleeve having a closed, hemispherically shaped dome top that smoothly transitions from said body;

said length of said sleeve being the same as or slightly longer than said height of said stanchion such that said stanchion substantially fill said interior cavity; and

said sleeve and said dome top each being molded from a plastic material and having a wall thickness, said wall thickness of said sleeve and said wall thickness of said dome top being substantially the same;

wherein nothing else is required to retain said cover on said stanchion.